

Application No. 09/440,434

Attorney Docket No. 66610

Reply to Office Action of August 31, 2004

**REMARKS**

Claims 9-23, 25 and 26 were present for examination in the above-identified application. Claims 9-13, 19 and 20 stand finally rejected, claims 22, 23, 25 and 26 stand allowed and claims 14-18 and 21 stand objected to, but would be allowable if written in independent form including all limitations of their base and any intervening claims.

Claim 9 has been amended to include all limitations of objected to claim 18 which depended directly from claim 9. Claim 18 has been canceled. Accordingly, claim 9 as amended represents claim 18 written in independent form in a manner which the Examiner indicates is allowable. Claims 10-13, 17-19 and 21 which, after the above amendments, are dependent on claim 9 are asserted to be allowable due to that dependence.

Objected to claim 14 has been amended to include all the limitations of prior claim 9 from which it depended directly. Accordingly, claim 14 as amended, and claim 15 and 16 which depend therefrom are asserted to be allowable for reasons stated by the Examiner.

The claims have been amended in a manner which the Examiner has indicated would achieve allowability. Accordingly, allowance of all claims is hereby requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17 during its entire pendency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1135. Should no proper

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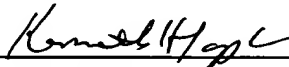
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payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully requested,

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

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